



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,983	02/18/2004	Terry D. Rodgers	H0006490-0555 (17267)	3325

128 7590 02/12/2007
HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.
101 COLUMBIA ROAD
P O BOX 2245
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07962-2245

EXAMINER

KIM, AHSHIK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2876

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,983

Applicant(s)

RODGERS, TERRY D.

Examiner

Ahshik Kim

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/14/06 (Election).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/18/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-19 and 27 in the reply filed on
5 November 14, 2006 is acknowledged.

Claims 20-26 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on November 14, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

15 (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being
20 anticipated by Tani (US 2004/0094630, hereinafter "Tani").

Re claims 1, 8, and 19, Tani discloses an inventory management apparatus for an automated assembly machine (see the main figure) that is fed components from a component reel
25 2, the component reel comprising a tape 5 having the components carried at periodic locations along the tape (see figures 2 and 3), the apparatus comprising a reader 110 (figure 13, paragraph 0103) for reading the identification tag on the tape; and a plurality of transmitters as indicated by

Art Unit: 2876

arrows in figure 13 (paragraph 0107). By the same token, the box to which arrow points to can be interpreted as a receiver. Although Tani may be silent, the operator/user must be notified of the end of reel message to ready the replacement reel.

Re claim 2, when the end of the reel is predicted based on use of the reel, preparation of the replacement reel is instructed (paragraph 0104).

Re claims 4 and 9, when replacement reel is to be ready, identity of the reel is checked and determined (paragraphs 0077-0079).

Re claim 13, as shown in figure 2, the chip part is mounted on a mounting tape 4 (see figure 2; paragraph 0080).

Re claim 14, the identification tag may be a bar code which is read by an optical reader (paragraph 0103).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tani (US 2004/0094630) in view of Guerrero et al. (US 6,739,512, hereinafter "Guerrero").

The teachings of Tani have been discussed above.

Re claim 3, Tani, however, fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest that the message is conveyed via email message.

Art Unit: 2876

Guerrero discloses a method for use in managing manufacturing of a virtual factory (see abstract). In tracking a particular components in the manufacturing process, a user may use email communication (col. 7, lines 1-39, 34).

In view of Guerrero's teaching, it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ well-known email communication to the teachings of Tani in order to ensure that necessary personnel is contacted for a given task -- preparing a replacement reel. The embodiment disclosed in Tani may be an operator-monitored (or operator intervened) system rather than fully automated system inferring from user inspection station as illustrated in figure 10 (see paragraph 0096 thereafter). User is allowed to observe output and enter input (if needed) through the computer 11-4. Accordingly, notifying the user via email regarding the replacement reel or other situation is well within one ordinary skill in the art.

Re claim 18, Guerrero further discloses that the system is capable of wirelessly transmitting captured/collected information (col. 17, lines 29-45).

In view of Guerrero's disclosure, it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ well-known wireless communication means to the teachings of Tani in order to provide improved functionality of the wireless communication.

6. Claims 5-7, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tani (US 2004/0094630).

Although Tani does not explicitly discloses that the identifier is associated with the transmitter, the identification information includes manufacturing serial number of the part, the factory name, the factory name, the time of manufacture on the line, the supervisor of the work,

Art Unit: 2876

and other recorded content (see paragraph 0096). The apparatus information comprising the transmitter and being part of the line is also being tracked.

7. Claims 15-17 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tani

5 (US 2004/0094630) in view of Easton (US 6,779,726, hereinafter "Easton").

The teachings of Tani have been discussed above.

Re claims 15 and 16, Tani, however; fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest that the reader comprises a magnetic reader or RF tag reader.

Easton discloses a tape processing apparatus and system on which the components are
10 mounted (see abstract). The component may be one of OCR, MICR and RFID (col. 7, lines 66+) which can be read by the respective readers.

It is the Examiner's view that barcode or OCR, MICR or RFID are functionally equivalent means in this embodiment that they are information carriers. Accordingly, one can be used in place of another.

15 Re claim 17, Easton further discloses that the tape is comprised of a marker indicating the end of the tape (col. 8, line 64 – col. 9, line 15). Tani, although not explicitly stating the detailed methodology, mentions "end of reel" or "end of production." Once again, "end of reel" of Tani and end of tape marker as disclosed in Easton are functionally equivalent means and be interchangeably used, failing to produce unexpected results.

20

Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Sims et al. (US 5,465,545); Epstein (US 6,478,229); Chapman et al. (US 7,114,655);

Art Unit: 2876

Delaney (US 5,674,803) disclose various tape/roll processing apparatus. Applicant is respectfully suggested to carefully review these references.

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Ahshik Kim* whose telephone number is (571)272-2393. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 6:00AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571)272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571)273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [ahshik.kim@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished application is available for Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions or access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ahshik Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876
February 2, 2007